Archdiocese of Seattle

Archdiocese of Seattle retains ownership of First Hill properties

November 11, 2026, SEATTLE – The Archdiocese of Seattle and St. James Cathedral have retained ownership of four properties on First Hill after developer Westbank chose not to extend its options to purchase the First Hill properties.

In 2022, the Archdiocese of Seattle and St. James Cathedral announced an initial plan to sell properties for redevelopment by Westbank, a global developer recognized for its long-term commitment to sustainable building. Westbank envisioned building a carbon-neutral community on First Hill using diverted excess heat from local hospitals to heat the buildings.

Numerous challenges stemming from the impact of the pandemic on the global construction industry, compounded by rising interest rates and a cooling of the real estate market, impacted the ability of the First Hill project as envisioned to move forward.

Because of this, the Archdiocese of Seattle and St. James Cathedral retain ownership of their First Hill properties:

- St. James Cathedral Pastoral Outreach Center, 907 Columbia St.
- Paul Pigott Building, 710 Ninth Ave.
- Old Chancery Building, 907 Terry Ave.
- Connolly House, 1104 Spring St.

“We are beyond disappointed that the First Hill projects did not go forward,” said Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, who was an advocate for Westbank’s sustainable housing development plan. “We will begin reviewing potential options for the future, knowing that, ultimately, redevelopment of these aging buildings is the best way to support the archdiocese and the First Hill community.”

About the Archdiocese of Seattle

The Archdiocese of Seattle encompasses all of Western Washington, stretching from Canada to Oregon and from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. There are 74 Catholic schools and 136 parishes organized into 60 parish families in the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in eight languages. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne leads the archdiocese with his auxiliary bishops, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and Bishop Frank Schuster. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, please visit www.archseattle.org.

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